



West Fertilizer Plant prior to 4/17/2013

West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

April 25, 2013, 1200 CDT

- On April 24, 2013, EPA continued air monitoring activities with three stationary sites. Locations included: one in a public park directly west of the facility; one near the apartment complex; one near the Mobile Command Post (West High School). Activities also included mobile air monitoring in the residential area west of the facility. EPA will continue monitoring for the same parameters that include volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. No air monitoring readings above background were detected during today's operations.
- EPA continues to coordinate with FEMA, ATF, OSHA, CSB, TCEQ, DSHS, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.
- EPA and TCEQ conducted an offsite assessment of an impacted area caused by storm water runoff from the West Fertilizer facility. TCEQ stated that the runoff occurred after an initial rainfall event following the incident. TCEQ is currently developing a storm water/sampling plan to assess and determine the extent of contamination.
- McLennan OEM stated that repatriation of the residential area west of the facility will potentially occur over the next couple of days. EPA met with TCEQ to discuss potential air monitoring activities during the repatriation. TCEQ proposed air monitoring with EPA START assistance throughout the residential area during repatriation. OEM stated that citizens would be allowed to return to their homes for the purpose of assessing and collecting personal items during day light hours only.
- EPA mobilized the command trailer with goose neck to the site.
- TCEQ contractors continued conducting 24 hour air monitoring around the facility perimeter.
- An official statement of the cause of the incident has not been released. ATF investigations into the order of events and cause of the explosion are on-going.
- The state estimates that the City of West has 700 housing units, not including the skilled nursing homes that were damaged in the blast. On Saturday April 20, a joint state/FEMA and Small Business Administration damage assessment was conducted with the following results (also see table below):
 - 1. 350 homes impacted
 - 2. 142 were destroyed
 - 3. 51 received major damage
 - 4. 27 received minor damage
 - 5. 130 were otherwise affected
 - 6. West Rest Haven Nursing Home had 128 residents who were evacuated to local and regional care facilities and will be unable to return to the facility, which was destroyed.
- FEMA is coordinating a debris task force. FEMA Category A declaration for debris removal is pending but likely. FEMA will coordinate debris removal with the City of West, McLennan County, USACE, and TCEQ. FEMA is also considering operations for public assistance. EPA will work with FEMA in determining an acceptable facility for debris disposal. TCEQ has developed a debris management plan for potential demolition operations in the near future.
- A boil water notice remains in effect for the entire city.
- POTUS will attend a memorial for citizens of West on Thursday in Waco. Undetermined whether or not POTUS will participate in a site tour that same day.
- Two (2) EPA Region 6 OSC's will attend the memorial for citizens of West on Thursday in Waco.

Personnel	EPA OSC In Field	EPA RSC in Field	R6 Contractor In Field	National Criminal Enforcement Response Team Agents	EPA In REOC	Contractor In REOC	Total
Total	2	2	4	1	2	0	11

*Current as of 0700hrs 4/25. OSC's deployed with the Mobile Command Post.